

JUVENILE PROBATION OFFICER BASIC Officer Safety and Mechanical Restraints



PARTICIPANT GUIDE

Juvenile Justice Training Academy

Texas Juvenile Justice Department
11209 Metric Blvd • Building H
Austin, Texas 78758
P 512.490.7913

W www.tjjd.texas.gov

E juvenilejusticetrainingacademy@tjjd.texas.gov



JUVENILE PROBATION OFFICER BASIC
Officer Safety and Mechanical Restraints

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Developed by Juvenile Justice Training Academy
Texas Juvenile Justice Department
11209 Metric Blvd * Building H
Austin, Texas 78758
Phone: 512-490-7600 * Fax: 512-490-7601

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INTRODUCTION

This course provides an overview of safety measures Juvenile Probation Officers should consider when supervising juvenile in and out of the office.

ACTIVITY: WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

Instructions: Read the scenario below. After you have finished, answer the following questions in the space provided.

1. What would **YOU** do?
2. What could **YOU** have done differently with this juvenile?

Scenario

For the past year, you have been supervising a 17-year-old male on probation for burglary of a habitation, possession of marijuana, and assault bodily injury. He has substance use issues, but you believe he has potential to overcome it. For the last three months, he has tested positive for drug use repeatedly. Instead of filing a violation, you increase his supervision level and require him to go to an intense outpatient treatment program. On the fifth positive drug screen, you meet with the juvenile and his parents, who plead with you not to send their son to juvenile detention. You give in. His parents report to you the juvenile has been moody lately, but think it's just him being a typical teenager. A week later, you decide to do a routine field visit at his home. You arrive and discover him home, alone. He invites you in and you enter, as you have done many times before, but his parents were usually home. You feel comfortable though and begin talking to the juvenile about his continued drug use and future placement possibility. He becomes angry and irate because he does not want to go to placement. You suddenly realize he is high on drugs. He begins to come toward you...

PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES

1. Summarize safety measures for juvenile probation officers covered in this training.
2. Outline strategic ways to supervise juveniles, in and out of the office.
3. Given a scenario, apply the correct Texas Administrative Code (TAC) rule(s) regarding the use of mechanical restraints.

SECTION I: WHY IS SAFETY IMPORTANT?

Safety Risks

- Supervision of juveniles on probation
- Unfamiliar neighborhoods
- Interaction with strangers

Safety Mistakes

- Failure to focus
- Rushing
- Complacency
- Inattention to details

What safety measure can I incorporate into my current practice?

NOTES

SECTION II: PROACTIVE SAFETY MEASURES

Officer Presence

- Look sharp!
- Act sharp!
- Be sharp!



NOTES

States of Awareness

- White
 - Oblivious/unconcerned
 - Familiar and safe surroundings
 - Relaxed state of mind
 - Daydreaming, on vacation, tired, preoccupied
- Yellow
 - Cautious but not tense
 - Not expecting a threat, but aware of the possibility of one
- Orange
 - There is an identifiable threat
 - Confrontation is seconds away
 - Plan identified for the situation
- Red
 - Neutralize the threat
 - Disengage from the situation and get help
 - Help is needed
- Black
 - Ineffective protection and injury likely
 - Frozen in fear

STATES OF AWARENESS

Condition White: a mental state of environmental unawareness

Condition Yellow: a relaxed but alert state

Condition Orange: a state of alarm

Condition Red: a state of combat

Condition Black: a state of panic, frenzy, and paralysis

Use of Force Continuum

- Officer presence
- Empty hand techniques
- Lethal force
- Verbal skills
- Intermediate weapons

NOTES

SECTION III: OFFICE SAFETY**Accessibility**

- Office hours
 - If working late, tell someone
 - Set defined office hours
 - Deal with unscheduled visits individually
- Physical office guidelines
 - Do not leave anyone in office unsupervised.
 - Keep doors opened at all times.
- Security
 - Be aware of all entrances and exits
 - Ensure juvenile dress appropriately
 - Ensure juvenile sign in with support staff
 - Do not allow food, drinks, or backpacks in your office
 - Know local department search policy
- Only juvenile and authorized visitors and staff allowed in the office
- Unless required, do not provide your personal contact information to the juvenile
- Maintain professional boundaries; no connections on social media
- Have an emergency plan

ACTIVITY: WHAT PROBLEMS DO YOU SEE?

Instructions: You will view four pictures and will have a few minutes for each to write down the potential office safety issues you observe. We will discuss responses as a large group after all four pictures are reviewed.

Office 1

Office 2

Office 3

Office 4

Office Configuration

- If possible, be able to exit your office first in case of an emergency
- Keep all office supplies (e. g. hole puncher, stapler) out of sight
- Do not display personal items where juveniles can see them
- Remember confidentiality: file folders should be put away

NOTES

SECTION IV: FIELD VISITS

- **Pre-visit**
 - Create a field contact checklist
 - Know the location's physical address
 - Know all occupants residing in home
 - Bring only work-related documents needed for the visit
 - Wear business casual clothing and shoes
 - Inform office staff of your whereabouts
 - Keep cell phone fully charged
 - Plan visits at appropriate times
 - If possible, visit with a partner
 - Always be prepared for the unexpected

▪ **Visit**

- Observe surroundings
- Park vehicle for a safe exit
- Remain alert
- Use your senses to discern potential dangers
- Stand to the side of the door, never directly in front
- Before entering, be aware of who is present
- Ask if all pets are secured
- If juvenile is alone, follow departmental policy on how to proceed with the visit
- Do not allow the door to be locked behind you
- Ask all loud items be turned off
- Maintain professionalism
- Do not accept food or gifts
- Take care of pertinent business
- Upon conclusion, leave the home as soon as possible
- Always be prepared for the unexpected

WHILE IN THE HOUSE

If you see:

Illegal items

Leave immediately and document thoroughly.

A weapon

Leave immediately, thoroughly document and explain later to the family that weapons should be locked away during a visit.

Drugs

Document this on your report and drug test the juvenile later. Report to Child Protective Services.

▪ **Post-visit**

- Keep your guard up
- Do not turn your back to juvenile
- Observe your vehicle
- Once in your vehicle, lock doors
- Make notes while situation is fresh on your mind
- Ensure you are not followed
- Once back in office, document visit thoroughly

ACTIVITY: DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE?

Instructions: As you observe the following pictures, write down what you observe in the picture, include possible issues such as parking, point of entry, potential ambush points, and anything else of concern. Be prepared to share your responses with the large group during the debrief session.

Picture 1

Picture 2

Picture 3

APPENDIX

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37 TAC Chapter 341

Subchapter G Restraints

§341.700 Applicability Effective Date: 1/1/17

This subchapter applies only to juveniles who are not residents of a juvenile pre-adjudication secure detention facility, a juvenile post-adjudication secure correctional facility, or a non-secure juvenile correctional facility.

§341.702 Requirements Effective Date: 1/1/17

- (a) The use of restraints is governed by the following criteria.
 - (1) Personal restraints may be used only by juvenile probation officers and transport personnel who are trained in the use of the approved personal restraint technique.
 - (2) Mechanical restraints may be used only by juvenile probation officers and transport personnel who are trained in the use of all approved mechanical restraint devices.
 - (3) Except during routine transportation or when a juvenile probation officer takes a juvenile into custody under [Texas Family Code §52.01](#) or [§52.015](#), restraints may be used only in instances of threat of imminent or active:
 - (A) self-injury;
 - (B) injury to others; or
 - (C) serious property damage.
 - (4) Restraints may be used only as a last resort.
 - (5) Only the amount of force and type of restraint necessary to control the situation may be used.
 - (6) Restraints must be implemented in such a way as to protect the health and safety of the juvenile and others.
 - (7) Restraints must be terminated as soon as the juvenile's behavior no longer indicates an imminent threat of self-injury, injury to others, or serious property damage, except during routine transportation or when a juvenile probation officer takes a juvenile into custody.

§341.704 Prohibitions Effective Date: 1/1/17

Restraints that employ a technique listed in this section are prohibited:

- (1) restraints used for punishment, discipline, retaliation, harassment, compliance, or intimidation;
- (2) restraints that deprive the juvenile of basic human necessities, including restroom opportunities, water, food, and clothing;
- (3) restraints that are intended to inflict pain;

- (4) restraints that put a juvenile in a prone or supine position with sustained or excessive pressure on the back or chest cavity;
- (5) restraints that put a juvenile in a prone or supine position with pressure on the neck or head;
- (6) restraints that obstruct the airway or impair the breathing of the juvenile, including a procedure that places anything in, on, or over the juvenile's mouth or nose or around the juvenile's neck;
- (7) restraints that interfere with the juvenile's ability to communicate;
- (8) restraints that obstruct the view of the juvenile's face;
- (9) any technique that does not require the monitoring of the juvenile's respiration and other signs of physical distress during the restraint; and
- (10) percussive or electrical shocking devices.

§341.705	Transport Personnel	Effective Date: 1/1/17
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Transport personnel must maintain current certification in the following topics:

- (1) cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR);
- (2) first aid; and
- (3) a personal restraint technique approved by TJJD.

§341.706	Documentation	Effective Date: 1/1/17
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- (a) Restraints must be fully documented and the documentation must be maintained, except as noted in subsection (b) of this section. Written documentation regarding the use of restraints must include, at a minimum:
 - (1) name of the juvenile;
 - (2) name and title of each staff member who administered the restraint;
 - (3) narrative description of the restraint event from each staff member who participated in the restraint;
 - (4) date of the restraint;
 - (5) duration of each type of restraint (e.g., personal or mechanical), including notation of the time each type of restraint began and ended;
 - (6) location of the restraint;
 - (7) events and behavior that prompted the initial restraint and any continued restraint;
 - (8) de-escalation efforts and restraint alternatives attempted;
 - (9) type of restraint(s) applied, including, as applicable:
 - (A) the specific type of personal restraint hold applied; and
 - (B) the type of mechanical restraint device(s) applied; and
 - (10) any injury that occurred during the restraint.

- (b) The following events are not required to be documented as a restraint, except as noted in subsection (c) of this section:
 - (1) using mechanical restraints during routine transportation; and
 - (2) a juvenile probation officer taking a juvenile into custody under [Texas Family Code §52.01](#) or [§52.015](#).
- (c) The exception in subsection (b) of this section does not apply when:
 - (1) the juvenile's cooperation is compelled through the use of a personal restraint; or
 - (2) the juvenile receives an injury in relation to the restraint event or restraint devices.

§341.708	Personal Restraint	Effective Date: 1/1/17
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- (a) A juvenile probation department may not use a personal restraint technique before it has been approved for use by TJJD.
- (b) Staff members who are authorized to use personal restraints must be retrained in the approved personal restraint technique in accordance with the requirements of the technique or at least once every 365 calendar days, whichever time frame is shorter.

§341.710	Mechanical Restraint	Effective Date: 1/1/17
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The use of mechanical restraints is governed by the following criteria.

- (1) **Requirements.**
 - (A) Only approved mechanical restraint devices may be used by the juvenile probation department.
 - (B) Mechanical restraints must be used only in a manner consistent with their intended use.
 - (C) Mechanical restraint devices must be inspected at least once each year, no later than the last day of the calendar month of the previous year's inspection. The dates of the inspections must be documented.
 - (D) Faulty or malfunctioning devices must be restricted from use until they are repaired. Any maintenance performed must adhere to the manufacturer's guidelines.
- (2) **Prohibitions.**
 - (A) Mechanical restraint devices may not be altered from the manufacturer's design.
 - (B) A juvenile may not be placed in a prone position while restrained in any mechanical restraint for a period of time longer than necessary to apply the restraint devices.
 - (C) A mechanical restraint may not be used to secure a juvenile in a prone, supine, or lateral position with the juvenile's arms and hands behind his/her back and secured to his/her legs.
 - (D) Mechanical restraint devices may not be secured so tightly as to interfere with circulation or so loosely as to cause chafing of the skin.
 - (E) Mechanical restraint devices may not be used to secure a juvenile to a stationary object.
 - (F) A juvenile in mechanical restraints may not participate in any physical activity.

- (G) Plastic cuffs may be used only in emergency situations.

§341.712 Transporting**Effective Date: 1/1/17**

- (a) During transportation in a vehicle, a juvenile may not be affixed to any part of the vehicle.
- (b) During transportation in a vehicle, a juvenile may not be secured to another juvenile.